

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1 Arizona Corporation Commission 2 DOCKETED COMMISSIONERS 3 FEB 23 2010 KRISTIN K. MAYES, Chairman 4 **GARY PIERCE** PAUL NEWMAN DOCKETED BY 5 SANDRA D. KENNEDY ne **BOB STUMP** 6 DOCKET NO. S-20676A-09-0248 In the matter of 7 GREEN PANEL CORPORATION, a 71492 8 DECISION NO. Wyoming corporation, 9 JOSEPH SAMUEL BURTON, a married ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER 10 FOR RESTITUTION AND ORDER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AGAINST BONNIE EILEEN BURTON, a married 11 RESPONDENTS: woman. 12 GREEN PANEL CORPORATION PANELIZED BUILDING SYSTEMS OF PRESCOTT, L.L.C. (a/k/a "PANELIZED 13 JOSEPH SAMUEL BURTON BUILDING SYSTEMS"), a dissolved Wyoming limited liability company. 14 BONNIE EILEEN BURTON Respondents. 15 PANELIZED BUILDING SYSTEMS OF PRESCOTT, L.L.C. (a/k/a "PANELIZED 16 **BUILDING SYSTEMS")** I. 17 FINDINGS OF FACT 18 19 On May 20, 2009, the Securities Division ("Division") of the Arizona Corporation 1. 20 Commission ("Commission") filed a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("TC&D") against respondents GREEN PANEL CORPORATION 21 ("GPC"), JOSEPH SAMUEL BURTON ("JB"), BONNIE EILEEN BURTON ("BB") and 22 PANELIZED BUILDING SYSTEMS OF PRESCOTT, L.L.C. (a/k/a "PANELIZED BUILDING 23 24 SYSTEMS") ("PBS"). 25

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- 2. JB and BB may be referred to hereafter as the "BURTONS." GPC and PBS may be referred to hereafter as the "BURTON COMPANIES." The BURTONS and the BURTON COMPANIES may be referred to hereafter as "RESPONDENTS."
- 3. On November 10, 2009, the Division personally served RESPONDENTS with copies of the TC&D, at the BURTONS' last known residence at 4781 Edgemont, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86312.
 - 4. RESPONDENTS have not filed a request for hearing or an answer to the TC&D.
- 5. GPC is a Wyoming corporation that conducted business within or from Prescott, Arizona from on or about January 12, 2007, to at least November 10, 2009.
- 6. From on or about October 11, 2006, to at least December 9, 2007, PBS was a manager managed Wyoming limited liability company that conducted business within or from Prescott, Arizona. PBS's corporate status was revoked by the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office on December 9, 2007 for failure to appoint a statutory agent, and its status has not been reinstated as of the date of this Order.
- 7. At all times relevant, JB has resided in Prescott, Arizona, and has been married to BB. From on or about April 7, 2001, to at least November 10, 2009, JB conducted business in his individual capacity, and on behalf of: (a) GPC as its co-owner, secretary, chief operating officer and/or board member; and (b) PBS as its co-owner and/or member.
- 8. At all times relevant, BB has resided in Prescott, Arizona. From on or about April 7, 2001, to at least November 10, 2009, BB conducted business in her individual capacity, and on behalf of: (a) GPC as its co-owner, president, chief executive officer and/or chairman of the board; and (b) PBS as its co-owner and managing member.
- 9. At all times relevant, the BURTONS have acted for their own benefit and for the benefit and in furtherance of their marital community.
- 10. At all relevant times, RESPONDENTS have not been registered as securities salesman or dealers by the Commission.

11. From on or about April 7, 2001, to at least November 10, 2009, RESPONDENTS offered and sold unregistered securities within and from Arizona in the form of investment contracts, notes and limited liability company membership interests in PBS.

- 12. RESPONDENTS offered and sold at least 33 unregistered securities totaling \$1,425,855 to 24 investors residing in Arizona and 3 other states. Of this amount: (a) \$1,425,855 was sold by the BURTONS; (b) \$839,800 was sold by GPC; and (c) \$264,000 was sold by PBS.
- 13. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS represented to offerees and investors that they were engaged in the business of manufacturing structural insulated wall and roof panels ("SIP") for use in residential, commercial and industrial construction.
- 14. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS promised offerees and investors that they would pool investor money together to: (a) promote and expand the BURTON COMPANIES and their SIP manufacturing and sales capabilities; and (b) build and/or assist in the building of thousands of SIP-based homes and commercial structures costing tens of millions of dollars.
- 15. RESPONDENTS sold approximately 25 unsecured note securities ranging in price from approximately \$5,000 to \$150,000.
- 16. The terms and conditions of the notes varied, and promised interest ranging from 10 percent to 348 percent per year, and the eventual return of the principal investment in as little as 90 days to 7 months. One note offered and sold by the BURTONS and PBS states that if they are unable to pay the promised interest, the investor would alternatively receive a 25 percent limited liability company membership interest in PBS.
- 17. Investment contracts offered and sold by RESPONDENTS promised investors: (a) interest on principal, similar to the notes; (b) a limited liability company membership interest in PBS ranging from 5 percent to 40 percent; and/or (c) a percentage of net income produced by RESPONDENTS' business operations.
- 18. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS managed all aspects of the securities and, without limitation: (a) operated the BURTON COMPANIES and supervised their agents and

employees; (b) designed, built and manufactured the tools, machinery and plant facilities necessary to construct SIPs; and (c) manufactured and marketed SIPs and their SIP-based construction projects.

- 19. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS deposited investor money into Arizona banks accounts owned and controlled by RESPONDENTS.
- 20. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS used a variety of media to offer the securities. In December 2007, the BURTONS arranged for a power point presentation to be presented to approximately 25 potential investors in Atlanta, Georgia during which they sought hundreds of thousands of dollars in note investment money for GPC. From at least June 2008 to 2009, the BURTONS and GPC publicly solicited investors on the internet.
 - 21. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS represented to offerees and investors that:
 - A. RESPONDENTS have executed contracts to build thousands of SIP-based homes, commercial and/or industrial buildings totaling hundreds of millions of dollars in the United States and abroad with the governments of, for instance, South Africa and the Dominican Republic; and
 - B. that investors would receive their investment returns from proceeds resulting from their SIP-based construction activities.
- At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS failed to inform offerees and investors that their ability to obtain their promised investment returns and the ability of RESPONDENTS' customers to pay RESPONDENTS for their SIP products and/or services could be negatively impacted by: (a) real estate market fluctuations and declines; and (b) expensive and time consuming civil litigation. RESPONDENTS further failed to disclose any risks associated with the securities including, but not limited to, the fact that investors could lose all or a vast portion of their principal investments.
- 23. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS failed to disclose to offerees and investors that they have been defendants in approximately 19 Arizona and Ohio civil lawsuits concerning their SIP-based construction and business operations and the securities at issue (the "Lawsuits').

RESPONDENTS further failed to disclose to offerees and investors that the Lawsuits resulted in unsatisfied breach of contract and fraud judgments against the BURTONS and/or the BURTON COMPANIES totaling approximately \$1,600,000.

- 24. At all times relevant, RESPONDENTS failed to inform offerees and investors that RESPONDENTS were not, and are not licensed by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors ("ROC") to construct residential homes or commercial buildings.
- 25. In addition to their internet advertisements, the BURTONS and GPC offered an Arizona resident an unsecured investment contract in 2009 costing approximately \$2,000,000.
- 26. To date, RESPONDENTS' investors have received no repayments on their investments.
- 27. On March 27, 2009, RESPONDENTS provided documentation to the Division demonstrating that, to date, their SIP business operations have produced no profits, but rather only losses.

II.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act.
- 2. RESPONDENTS were served with the TC&D pursuant to R14-4-303(D) and A.R.S. § 44-1972.
- 3. RESPONDENTS failed to request a hearing, or file an answer within the required time limits pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1972, R14-4-305 R14-4-307.
- 4. RESPONDENTS offered and sold securities within or from Arizona, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 44-1801(15), 44-1801(21), and 44-1801(26).
- 5. From April 7, 2001, to at least November 10, 2009, the BURTONS violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities in the form of investment contracts, notes and limited liability company membership interests that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.

- 6. From January 12, 2007, to at least November 10, 2009, GPC violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities in the form of investment contracts and notes that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.
- 7. From October 11, 2006, to at least December 9, 2007, PBS violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities in the form of investment contracts, notes and limited liability company membership interests that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.
- 8. RESPONDENTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither registered as dealers or salesmen nor exempt from registration.
- 9. RESPONDENTS violated A.R.S. § 44-1991 by (a) employing a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud, (b) making untrue statements or misleading omissions of material facts, and (c) engaging in transactions, practices, or courses of business that operate or would operate as a fraud or deceit. RESPONDENTS' conduct included:
 - A. Representing to offerees and investors that they would earn significant returns by purchasing the securities, while failing at all times relevant to further disclose that RESPONDENTS were defendants in approximately 19 Arizona and Ohio Lawsuits regarding their SIP-based construction and business operations and the securities resulting in unsatisfied breach of contract and fraud judgments against RESPONDENTS totaling approximately \$1,600,000.
 - B. Representing to offerees and investors that they would receive their investment returns from proceeds resulting from their SIP-based construction operations, while failing at all times relevant to further disclose: (1) any risks associated with the securities including, but not limited to, the fact that investors could lose all or a vast portion of their principal investments; and/or (2) that investors' ability to obtain their promised investment returns, and the ability of RESPONDENTS' customers to pay RESPOPNDENTS for their SIP products and/or services could be negatively impacted by unpredictable: (a) real estate market fluctuations and declines; and (b)

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expensive and time consuming civil litigation in both the United States and/or abroad.

- C. Representing to offerees and investors that they would be repaid their investment returns from proceeds resulting from their SIP-based construction operations, while failing to disclose at all times relevant that: (1) they were not licensed as contractors by the ROC; (2) given the nature of their purported SIP-based construction projects, they were acting as "contractors" as defined by Arizona law, and were required to be licensed under A.R.S. § 32-1121; (3) it is unlawful to conduct business as a contractor without being licensed under A.R.S. § 32-1151; and (4) RESPONDENTS' failure to be licensed as contractors by the ROC negatively impacts and/or impacted their ability to be compensated for their SIPbased construction work and, therefore, their ability to repay investors as promised.
- 10. RESPONDENTS' conduct is grounds for a cease and desist order pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.
- 11. RESPONDENTS' conduct is grounds for an order of restitution pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.
- 12. RESPONDENTS' conduct is grounds for administrative penalties under A.R.S. § 44-2036.
- 13. JB and BB acted for the benefit and in furtherance of their marital community and, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 25-214 and 25-215, this Order of restitution and administrative penalties is a debt of the JB and BB's marital community

III.

ORDER

THEREFORE, on the basis of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission finds that the following relief is appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors:

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that RESPONDENTS and any of their agents, employees, successors and assigns, permanently cease and desist from violating the Securities Act.

and BB's marital community shall, jointly and severally, pay restitution to the Commission in the amount of \$1,425,855: (a) JB, BB, and their marital community shall be liable for \$1,425,855; (b) GPC shall be liable for \$839,800; and (c) PBS shall be liable for \$264,000. Payment shall be made in full on the date of this Order. Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum from the date of this Order until paid in full. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona" to be placed in an interest-bearing account controlled by the Commission. The Commission shall disburse the funds on a pro-rata basis to investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any restitution funds that the Commission cannot disburse because an investor refuses to accept such payment, or any restitution funds that cannot be disbursed to an investor because the investor is deceased and the Commission cannot reasonably identify and locate the deceased investor's spouse or natural children surviving at the time of the distribution, shall be disbursed on a pro-rata basis to the remaining investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any funds that the Commission determines it is unable to or cannot feasibly disburse shall be transferred to the general fund of the state of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036, that RESPONDENTS shall pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$100,000. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona." Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum from the date of this Order until paid in full. The payment obligations for these administrative penalties shall be subordinate to any restitution obligations ordered herein and shall become immediately due and payable only after restitution payments have been paid in full or upon the default of RESPONDENTS with respect to the restitution obligations of RESPONDENTS.

For purposes of this Order, a bankruptcy filing by RESPONDENTS shall be an act of 1 default. If RESPONDENTS do not comply with this Order, any outstanding balance may be 2 deemed in default and shall be immediately due and payable. 3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that default shall render RESPONDENTS liable to the 4 Commission for its costs of collection and interest at the maximum legal rate. 5 /// 6 7 /// 8 /// 9 /// 10 /// 11 /// /// 12 13 /// /// 14 15 /// 16 /// 17 /// 18 /// 19 /// /// 20 21 /// /// 22 /// 23 24 /// 25 /// 26 ///

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if any of the RESPONDENTS fail to comply with this 1 order, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against the RESPONDENTS, 2 3 including application to the superior court for an order of contempt. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately. 4 BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 5 6 7 COMMISSIÓNER 8 9 10 COMMISSION 11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ERNEST G. JOHNSON, 12 Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto set my hand and caused the 13 official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this 23 rd day of 14 February, 2010. 15 16 17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 18 19 DISSENT 20 21 22 DISSENT 23 This document is available in alternative formats by contacting Shaylin A. Bernal, ADA 24 Coordinator, voice phone number 602-542-3931, e-mail sabernal@azcc.gov. 25 (MD) 26

SERVICE LIST FOR: In re Green Panel Corporation, et al., Docket No. S-20676A-09-0248 Joseph and Bonnie Burton Green Panel Corporation Panelized Building Systems 4781 Edgemont Prescott Valley, Arizona 86312

Decision No. **71492**